



LONDON'S FREE RADIO NEWSHEET

Issue 1, Compiled 16 September 1985

Information

Welcome to the first issue of TX, a trial issue to find out if there is the need for a newsheet dealing solely with the London pirate scene. Previously other newsheets and magazines have been primarily concerned with either the offshore or Irish stations. We aim to give you the information you want about the future of radio, the landbased pirates, rather than nostalgia for days past.

We would welcome any comments you have to make as well as any information about the London stations that you have. That way TX will become THE free radio publication for London and the Home Counties.

Radio Horizon

On Sunday 15 September Radio Horizon closed. The station has suffered in the recent stepping up of raids by the DTI and decided that instead of trying to continue as a pirate it would do better to wait and try to get a community of interest licence. This also means that Horizon won't be seen as an illegal operation when it comes to allocating licences, possibly increasing its chances of getting one. Jackie was promised it wouldn't be discriminated against in the allocation so Horizon are obviously hoping to be similarly treated.

Chris Stewart, the station's founder and owner throughout its four year life, presented the final programme leading up to the studio close at 4.30 PM. A live broadcast from the Harrow Leisure Centre presented by the station's DJs then finally closed the station. Chris gave the usual thank yous to the station presenters who'd been with it since October 11, 1981 - quite a number in fact. Also credited (amongst others) were Radios Jackie and Skyline and Chris Miles (under his real name) who did alot of the transmitter work. He finally closed the station with the record "Thinking Of You" by Diana Ross, used by the station in its promos during the campaign before the 1984 Telecommunications Act came in. The final thought: "As long as the day dawns there will always be a Horizon."

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Imagine

Imagine (not called Imagine Radio) appear to be off the air currently but should be back. They broadcast to North-East London on Monday nights between 9PM and midnight with a rock format. They are a field based operation on 92MHz VHF with a power between 30W and 90W. The station is run by Steve Martin with help from Dave James and Pete Simmons. Alice's Restaurant's Dave Collins has also guested as a presenter, and Brian Marshall will probably also be appearing sometime.

Small Items

Solar will be back shortly to try and continue with their soul service, possibly now with back up help from their old rivals Horizon. LWR will also be back soon - according to Kenny Myers as soon as they can afford the rent for a new studio! South East Sound is still off the air following a raid not long ago. London Greek Radio is currently off the air. Voice of the Immigrant appear to have given up, as have Asian Peoples Radio. They all appear to be waiting to see who gets the first community licences. KJazz was featured in the Observer a few weeks ago - run by Solar's Giles Peterson, more on them next time.

Station Guide

Alice's Restaurant	93.0MHz VHF	Rock/Metal	Sunday 9AM-9PM
Contrast FM	90.0MHz VHF	Soul/Funk	Every Day 7PM+
Imagine	92.0MHz VHF	Rock	Monday 9-12PM
KJazz	94.0MHz VHF	Jazz	Sunday 10AM-10PM
London Greek Radio	104.0MHz VHF	Greek	24 Hrs
LWR	92.5MHz VHF	Soul/Funk	24 Hrs
Phoenix Radio	90.9MHz VHF	Alternative	Sunday 4PM
Radio Free London	92.0MHz VHF	Rock	Sunday 9-12PM
Solar Radio	102.5MHz VHF	Soul/Funk	24 Hrs
South East Sound	1188KHz MW	Rock/Pop	Sunday 1-5PM

Radio Free London

After an absence of around a year Kenny Myer's RFL is back. The station broadcasts on 92.0MHz VHF between 9PM and 12PM on a Sunday. Its format is from pre-punk type rock of the kind Caroline used to play to heavy metal. The station first appeared in the late seventies (as far as we're aware) and has since re-emerged with increasing gaps between broadcasts. The new version seems more stable than the last with presenters Mike Barnett, Steve Ego, Jenny Leather and Kenny Myres. Engineering is carried out mainly by Steve and Kenny. Letters can be sent to BCM Box 92, London, WC1N 3XX - the address last used by London Rock, a station run by Mike Barnett. Reception should be quite good across most of London.

Particularly interesting in the light of recent developments was suggestions from RFL of what the letters DTI really mean! e.g. Dead Transmitters Incorporated, Department of Terminally Insane, Department of Tragic Injustices! The station was also said to be using a special device called a "Nigel Grant Box" (remember him from RFL past and City Sound Radio) which, when installed on top of a tower block, kept the DTI away from the transmitter!!

Alice's Restaurant

Fans of Alice's Restaurant "London's Premier Rock Station" will be pleased to know that it is now back on the air after a six month absence - long by their standards. The station returned to the air on 93.0MHz VHF on Sunday 15 September after testing (we think) the week before. Unfortunately, out at the TX HQ it was only possible to just make out what the station was due to interference from Radio 4. In addition, this was not helped by low power and not tremendously good modulation quality. Now Horizon's gone from 94.5 maybe they'll move back to the better 94.4, hopefully with more power like they used to. Letters can be written to the station still at the old address of 1 St Barnabas Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 7BY.

Phoenix Radio

Phoenix Radio is now back on the air as well, though whether it's restored its links with Alice's has yet to be determined. It is now broadcasting on 90.9MHz VHF on Sunday from 4.00 PM. The station is once more field based so hours are limited and sound quality not as good as it used to be - on September 15 they were also overmodulating making reception on some receivers difficult. The format is the standard alternative music format - described as "Nighttime Radio 1" by some people.

SOUTH EAST SOUND, 58 ALDERSBROOK ROAD, LONDON, E12 5DY.

31.8.85.

Dear Listener,

If you were listening to our broadcasts on 11th you proba wondered what happened to our transmissions after about 1255 hrs. Well unfortunately we have some bad news for you.

Our site crew had opened the station normally at 1200 and things were running smoothly with no immediate cause for concern until the programme changeover at 1300 was due to take place. Our Chief Engineer Ray Adams was present along with two other members of our site crew.

As Ray approached the equipment to fade in the new programme using the on site mixer at 1300 he was suddenly caught red handed by 4 Department of Trade staff who appeared out of the thick foliage that surrounds our transmission site. One of the members of this D.T.I. team was the infamous Mr Eric Arthur Gotts. Ray is already familiar to them having himself had similar problems a number of years ago. Indeed it is now some considerable number of years since our station has suffered at the hands of the authorities in this way.

Interestingly there were no policemen present and all the DTI staff had got themselves absolutely filthy trying to lie in wait in the bushes and mud for us. They certainly were not equipped for the job and probably didn't expect to find us in such a difficult location. They had obviously tracked us from a previous week because they made the comment that "they thought they would catch us before we went on holiday." Indeed Mr Gotts was quite friendly because he approached Ray and greeted him by saying "Hello Ray, long time no see!" Our two other site crew attempted to get away, but were called back and asked whether they were involved. Of course they denied this and in the event only one of the two site crew had his name taken. Ray also had his name address taken and was told "You may or may not be hearing from us."

The DTI staff had some difficulty turning off the equipment, infact it took them about 5 minutes to do so. They confiscated all the equipment except the aerial and some of the earthing items.

South East Sound has every intention of returning to the air, but obviously we were not able to make our return as scheduled on September 1st. This is because the members of staff did not return from holidays until the previous Wednesday and obviously a meeting is required to co-ordinate the construction of new equipment and the location of new transmission sites. This is well in hand and it is hoped to make a token broadcast to inform listeners of our progress shortly. We hope to try and return to the air again towards the end of the month if possible. We will definitely be back and if you have any enquiries please do simply get in contact with us. The revised Tender-Trip programme will also return with the new service which will use the same frequency as before (253m/1188kHz). If you require further information developments please ring us on Rainham 22838 or the CM infoline on Reigate 41510.

This raid took place on the same day as a similar raid on Radio Fionna in Hertfordshire. Clearly the DTI have now satisfied themselves that they have made a good impact on the FM pirates and are turning their attentions to the MW stations. We are however a traditional Free Radio station and have no intention of giving up the fight that easily. You can rest assured that we intend to continue. However now we need your support more than ever. Keep listening and tell your friends that we will be back. Keep your ears tuned to 253m and particularly at around 1200/1300 hrs for more information! See you all soon.....

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SOUTH EAST SOUND -- THE CONTINUING SOUND OF ROCK OVER LONDON.